

BOARD MINUTES

HISTORIC SITES BOARD

May 19, 2003

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ITEM 1 – ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Board Administrative Matters and General Information

- **Call to Order**

6:30 PM

- **Members Present:**

Paul Johnson
Charles Muse
Jim Royle
Peggy Lacy
Steve Estrada
Carmen Lucas
Margie Warner

- **Staff Present:**

Donna Beddow
Gail Wright
Glenn Russell

- **Other General Information**

None

B. Conflict of Interest Declaration

None

C. Approval of 04/21/2003 Board Minutes

Peggy Lacy moved that the 04/21/2003 minutes be approved.

2nd by Steve Estrada;

Motion carried 7-0;

D. Reports

Staff requested that Action Item 3 , Review of 2003 Goals to end of agenda following action item 5

E. Announcements

- Arch-In-The-Park, at Los Penosquitos Park, has been tentatively rescheduled to June 7, 2003.
- Jamul-Delzura Community picnic will be held Friday, July 4th; Eric Grant, Jamul Planning Group extended an invitation to the HSB and staff
- Lynne Christenson announced that Invitations have been sent out for the Rancho Guajome 150th anniversary celebration August 2, 2003.

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Comment

- Eric Grant, Jamul-Delzura Planning Group wanted to know about the Land Use Element of the proposed 2020 general plan and whether or not planning groups would have a chance to comment on the proposal.
- Lynne Christenson, County of San Diego Parks Historian provided a County Parks update:
 - A. Heritage Park
 1. Heritage Park – new roofs for the houses
 2. Christian House – beer removed
 3. Several Heritage Park houses were treated for termites
 4. Bushyhead House – repainted in a toned-down color
 5. Burton House - repainted
 - B. Whaley house – small house adjacent to the main house will be restored. The house was built in the 1810's and for foundation is shifting.
 - C. Rancho Guajome – August 2, 2003 is preparing for the 150th anniversary

C. Presentations

- Sandra Woodhouse, Assessor's Office presented an overview and comparison of Proposition 13 and the Historic Properties Tax Relief, the Mills Act. There have been misconceptions as to how homeowners would benefit from the Mills Act. Prop 13 was passed in 1978 rolling back property taxes to the 1975 values, and all property owners are protected by prop 13. The maximum increase to property owners would be 2% per year. The Mills Act may provide tax benefits provided the property was purchased within the last few years. If a Historic property was purchased in the late 1980's or early 90's, the tax benefit may not equal that of Prop 13, although the Mills Act may offer relief from supplemental taxation assessments. The Mills Act properties are reassessed every year. The important thing to remember is that not all designated properties may benefit from the Mills Act. Should the county offer the Mills Act if it may not be a benefit? It is an incentive to maintain the property and may benefit many applicants. In other cases, while it may not benefit the current owner, prospective buyers may benefit.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 3 – REVIEW OF 2003 GOALS

Description: The 2003 goals that were approved at the March 17, 2003 meeting will be discussed to identify the progress that has been made and any actions that should

take place to complete these goals. This item was moved to the end of the agenda because of the complexity of the Waterfront EIR issue and the Cultural Thresholds and was ultimately continued to the June 2003 meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3 - SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER WATERFRONT PARK DEVELOPMENT AND MASTER PLAN

Description: Consider the San Diego County Administration Center Waterfront Park Development and Master Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report for approval.

Todays Action: Recommend Approval of the San Diego County Administration Center Waterfront Park Development and Master Plan with revisions if necessary. City of San Diego Historical Resources Board Recommendation on the Civic Center Historical Site's Waterfront Park Development (attached to minutes) will also be considered.

Background: At the March 17, 2003 HSB meeting, General Services presented the details of the Waterfront Project. The Historic Site Board voted to accept a project comment letter prepared jointly by the City HRB and the County HSB. It was also decided that an ad hoc committee from both boards would meet to discuss the concerns about some design features of the project. The ad hoc committee met twice. Following the second meeting, the city presented the project, along with a letter detailing the concerns and comments about the project, to the City Historic Resources Board (HRB). Following the April HRB meeting, City staff prepared a letter of recommendations for the County's HSB to review and consider at the May 19th meeting.

Comments: General Services Administration, and consultant representatives were in attendance to comment and answer questions. They also prepared written comments to the City's letter to the HSB (attached to minutes). Although the written comments were not available to the board members before the meeting, Jeff Redlitz of GSA covered most of the comments in response to board questions.

Motion by Paul Johnson: To approve the San Diego County Administration Center Waterfront Park Development and Master Plan with the addition of the comments contained in the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board letter "Recommendation on the Civic Center Historical Site's Waterfront Park Development", dated May 6, 2003.
2nd.

Motion carried: 7:0

ITEM 4 – THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES

Description: Consider the San Diego County Guidelines for Determining Significance and Project Screening Criteria for Cultural Resources for approval.

Todays Action: Recommend a continuance to the July 21, 2003 Historic Site Board meeting. These thresholds are currently being revised and will be forwarded to the HSB

members upon completion.

Peggy Lacy made a motion for continuance to the July 21, 2003 meeting.

Margie Warner: 2nd

Motion carried: 7-0

Comments: Although the board voted to continue this issue, several people attending the meeting wanted to comment on the threshold project. Eve Wengler, Mark Mojado of the San Luis Rey Band Luiseño, and Mel Vernon. Comments are summarized as follows:

- It is important to ensure that all Native American groups receive copies of the cultural thresholds and be allowed to comment; although the contacts for the recognized tribes are readily available, it is often difficult to know contacts of the tribes that are not federally recognized. Eve Wengler was asked if such a list was available and if she would provide that list to the County of San Diego HSB staff. She agreed.
- All sites are important and must be saved; all sites are one-of-a kind. Native Americans must be a part of the monitoring teams. It is important to return artifacts to the tribes (Mark Mojado)
- There is a resurgence of Native American Culture: consciousness of culture. Analogy of "his garage"; waiting to repair, upgrade historic/prehistoric places were needed for years; now, no money available. (Mel Vernon)
- Chart on Page 5 is awful; God awful. (Carmen Lucas)
- Pre-excavation agreement is a nightmare to read. It should be simplified and tailored to the specific project.

OTHER

ITEM 7– FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next meeting will take place on June 16, 2003; tentative agenda items:
 1. Live Oak Park in Fallbrook: consider historic tables and benches for designation
 2. The historic Holmgren House: consideration for historic designation and Mills Act

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Lacy.

2nd by Carmen Lucas; motion carried 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

Chairman, Jim Royle

June 16, 2003

Vice Chairman, Charles Muse

June 16, 2003
